

Appl. No. 10/663,333
Resp. dated October 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2006

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Atty. Docket No. 487.1084

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IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A convertible vehicle top, comprising:

a first roof part having an outer side;

a second roof part adjoining the first roof part in a closed position of the top;

a first link mechanism; and

an outer link pivotably connected to the first roof part by the first link mechanism and connected to the second roof part, wherein the outer link is disposed on the outer side of the first roof part in the closed position of the top.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the first link mechanism forms part of a four-bar linkage.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 2, wherein the first roof part forms a base of the four-bar linkage and wherein the outer link forms a connecting member of the four-bar linkage.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 3, wherein the first link mechanism includes a first connecting link and a second connecting link, the roof part and the outer link being connected via the first and connecting links.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second link mechanism and wherein the outer link is connected to the second roof part by the second link mechanism.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 5, wherein the second link mechanism is part of a four-bar linkage.

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Claim 7 (previously presented): The top as recited in 1, wherein the outer link forms part of a longitudinal body, the longitudinal body protruding over the outer surface of the top in the closed position of the top.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer link rests on the outer side of the top in the manner of a trim strip in the closed position of the top.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first roof part and the second roof part is a single-piece part.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein said first link mechanism includes at least one connecting link, said at least one connecting link extending as an axial prolongation of said outer link in the closed position of the top

Claim 11 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the first roof part includes a groove-shaped recess, the outer link being arranged in the recess in the closed position of the top.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 4, further comprising a covering plate including a joint, said covering plate being pivotable to a position essentially parallel to the first and second connecting links.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the second roof part is pivotable to a position over the first roof part and parallel to the first roof part.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer link is pivotable through an angle of at least 150 degrees.

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Claim 15 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the outer link is pivotable through an angle of at least 160 degrees.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the first roof part is a middle roof part and the second roof part is a front roof part and further comprising a third roof part disposed arranged behind the first roof part in a direction of travel of the vehicle.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 1, wherein the top is a three-part top.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 16, wherein, the second roof part is moveable over the first roof part and the third roof part is moveable over the first roof part and over the second roof part during an opening movement of the top.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A convertible vehicle top, comprising:

- a first roof part;

- a second roof part adjoining the first roof part in a closed position of the top;

- an upper link mechanism; and

- a link pivotably connected to the first roof part, and wherein the upper link mechanism is disposed between the link and the second roof part so as to connect the link to the second roof part.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 19, wherein said upper link mechanism forms part of a four-bar linkage including a first connecting link and a second connecting link, said first connecting link and said second connecting link being each pivotably connected to said second roof part and to said link.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 19, wherein said link is coupled to said first roof part by a lower link mechanism, and wherein said lower link mechanism forms part of a four-bar linkage comprising a first connecting link and a second connecting link, said first

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connecting link and said second connecting link being each pivotably connected to the first roof part and to said link.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 21, further comprising a covering member assigned to said lower link mechanism and at least partially covering the first connecting link and the second connecting link in a closed position of the top.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 22, wherein said covering member is pivotably attached to said first roof part, and wherein an opening movement of said lower four-bar linkage urges said covering plate to pivot to an uncovering position.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 19, wherein said link is disposed on an exterior side of the first roof part in the closed position of the top.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A convertible vehicle top, comprising:

- a first roof part having an outer side;
- a second roof part having an outer side and adjoining the first roof part in a closed position of the top;
- an outer link pivotably connected to the first roof part and to the second roof part;
- a link mechanism disposed on the outer side of at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part by the link mechanism; and
- a covering member disposed on at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part and at least partially covering said link mechanism in the closed position of the top.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 25, wherein said covering member is attached to at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part by a joint and is pivotable around said joint by said link mechanism, said link mechanism abutting against said covering member in an opened position of the top.

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Claim 27 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 26, wherein the joint defines a joint axis parallel to at least one articulation axis of the link mechanism.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 25, wherein said covering member includes a spring member urging the covering member into a covering position.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 25, wherein the link mechanism forms part of a four-bar linkage including a first connecting link and a second connecting link, said first connecting link and said second connecting link being each pivotably connected to said link and to at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 25, wherein the covering member includes a covering surface arranged in parallel to a surface of at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 30, wherein said covering member includes an extension disposed perpendicular to the covering surface, wherein said covering member is attached to at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part by a joint provided in said extension, the covering member being pivotable around said joint by said link mechanism and said link mechanism abutting against said covering member in an open position of the top.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The top as recited in claim 25, wherein said outer link includes an external surface and said covering member includes a covering surface, and wherein, in a closed position of the top, the external surface is arranged flush with at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part in a manner of a trim strip, the covering surface arranged flush with at least one of said first roof part and said second roof part, and said covering member axially adjoins said external surface.